

Red Wing Area Chamber of Commerce State of the City Presentation May 19, 2026

Mayor Gary Iocco and Chris Heineman were presenters, mainly Heineman.
Present also were Beth Snyder and Vicki Jo Lambert.

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Mayor Iocco – Intro “I’m just the eye candy, he’s the ____ guy”
“Please welcome our City Administrator Chris Heineman”

Heineman –
Economic Development
Infrastructure Project
Public Safety Infrastructure
Workforce & Talent Pipeline

14 goals identified, industry and housing for all
DEED Community Energy Transition Grant – bunch of studies
Long-term Financial Plan – haven’t done this before.
Land Development Feasibility Analysis – completed in fall?
Future Annexation Analysis – are there opportunities for annexation and growth? Manage infrastructure
Port infrastructure – no roadmap for port and waterway development, critical for economy. Up to 30 riverboards on annual basis

Economic development – similar study by County
Demand by 2035 – 9 years 2,439 units, for sale, market rate rental, subsidized rental, and service-enhanced senior

Retail Trade & Tourism – “pull factor” pulling from outside city for sales

Support for Commercial, Industrial, & Local Business Expansion

Significant bump in our downtown investment
PUC approved a 20 year extension of operating licenses for PI – NRC review 18-24 months, importance of that is not only that one of our key economic development partners and major employers, will continue operating, and the investment in relicensing will be significant. Long term impact on tax base for city and county. Significant portion of tax base, 42%. Appreciate partners going forward.

Wastewater Treatment Plant Replacement

\$142 million for 30+ years of life

Street Reconstruction Projects

Bluff to Arkin – East 4th, mobilization this week?

Mississippi River Bulkhead Repair & Replacement Costs - ~\$20+ million

City of Red Wing Law Enforcement Center Planning Process

Hope to come back to City Council in near future –

Strategic Vision & Priorities

Red Wing College Promise – major attraction and retention – program has over 100 students enrolled

Iocco (no slides, winging it)(I didn't catch all)

Primary goal – workforce housing

RW Shoe has about 50% new - No longer trying to expand in Red Wing

Behind Menards available if we can get a developer – has city services

Tracy Davies (?) – don't want to development

84 acres available by SE College

Annexation (this was discussed at Goodhue Co. Planning Commission mtg last night)

City now has 10-12 permits a year

We need 200/year

How do we do that. Planning Commission tonight. Have areas, increasing zoning density

If you're a developer, you want to come in and develop

Have to look at what's good for the entire city, not just 7-8 different areas.

Bayview closed down, not useable any longer. Tear it down, put some nice housing

Across from Hope Heights

Jefferson School, talking about City taking over, would like to keep a portion green space

Developers saying cannot build a house for under \$400k

Housing 1,000_ 3 br, bath and 1/2

New families, seniors, don't want to see another plan, on shelf, new plan, on shelf

Need to help folks get new staff members

How do we help current employers get more team members

TIF districts, doesn't cost the city anything, rest of increase goes to developer

RW used to be one of largest ports in country, bulkhead. RW Grain, turret from WWII tha moves their grain. Can do 4.2 barges a day, if improved, 8 in day

Spoke with Asst. Sec. Tellis (?) in DC, RW Grain funding, on Sec desk, hopefully next year.

Finstad signed on to wastewater treatment plan. He's trying to help us get that money.

Couple weeks ago, Sen. Smith, came down here, trying to help with congressional funding \$142 million is largest expenditure RW has ever seen

We need to raise water and sewer rates to get funding, you're going to see water and sewer rates going up.

I am laser focused on workforce housing.

Local business, Andrea, Main Street, Thursday night shopping, and new Xmas decorations.

That's what we need. Folks to step up and ask how can I help.

Budget time – what do you like about RW? High tax – would you like to see reduced.

Balancing act that council members have to do. I have authority to veto. I don't want to issue a veto. Want to come together

Previous Mayor – “use the veto because it brings people together.” Just like divorce atty.

Altendorf – thank you for that money, Sturgeon Lake

Lot of things to go over.

Q: Are you going to be sharing that that study? A? Yes September October time frame, not determined how.

Iocco – would you like to see a community meeting?

Just wants to know.

Q: As part of lobbying association – I know city takes a portion of it? Is there a way for the City to help with using money for community events. Community funded, local businesses. Want to do venetian boat parade. Just applied today? Can city help with fireworks, flower baskets. How is that funded, filtered, and how it can come back.

A: Part of lodging tax, state, only part can come back to RW, and that could be spent on those initiatives.

Iocco: City pays for baskets around city buildings, Kiwanis pays for baskets. I met every boat that came in last summer. The crews love Red Wing. I've gotta get some boots, Hanish, Barrel House. When people come back, they all have stores. Philadelphia guy, you've got to come up to Philadelphia, clean up our city.... We have over 40 parks in our city. We want everyone to be within a few blocks, kids can play in parks. I moved to near a small park, kids playing all the time. Need good roads, police protection. I'd like us to see that we have more than 10-12 permits.

Q: My understanding, we've exceeded livelihood of nuclear plant.

A: Part of that plan, we've been through the states, now on to the federal. I was asked, last August¹, they have a group of private group and legislators and they asked me to come out and speak. 42% of tax base, philanthropic work is wonderful. RW Shoe, ND Economic Development authority, what's it like to have a nuclear plant in your city. Obviously you have an issue with storage. And then they had a combined House and Senate meeting. Part of my job is to promote Red Wing, if someone wants me to come out and speak, I'll go. I've been taken to task.

Q: Tom asked question, couldn't hear.

Intros of local electeds

Linda Flanders – District 1, part of RW out to Welch.

Rep. Pam Altendorf.

Beth Snyder – Wards 3 & 4

_____ B side of Senate District

Vicki Jo Lambert – Ward 4

¹ He'd said at Council meeting that he'd been there 3 times. I have records from October, and also March, and it appears last August, so that equals three.